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THE FRIKANDER REBELLION SOUTH AFRICA TO-DAY

By J. K. O'CONNOR.

The MS. of this book was received from South Africa on December 18th. It contains many notable facts about the state of the country, and shows how the intrigues of Germany consummated in the Rebellion.

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CAPE TOWN: T. MASKEW MILLER



THE AFRIKANDER REBELLION
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THE AFRIKANDER REBELLION

To those persons who are acquainted with the conditions obtaining in that portion of the Union known as the Backveld and who possess some knowledge of the different sections of the Dutch community, the recent rebellious outbreak came as no great shock. Indeed, it was expected, and surprise was felt only because such an outbreak had been so long deferred.

As far back as 1902, when the ink in which the Vereeniging Treaty had been inscribed was scarcely dry, there

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were ominous signs of disaffection among a section of the Dutch people, who were pleased to call themselves "bitter-enders." Such a feeling of disaffection was not a matter to cause much surprise, seeing that the erstwhile republics had been overthrown and had been incorporated with the British Empire. It is easy to understand that the average Boer, who, from his youth upwards, had been taught to hate and distrust England and all things English, could not view with any semblance of delight the prospect of becoming a subject of the State which engendered his hatred and contempt. However, the terms of the Peace Treaty were of his own making, to all intents and

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purposes, and they were subscribed to, for and on his behalf, by the generals who had led him in the field and who were the recognized leaders of his people.

The terms contained in the Treaty cannot be characterized in any way as being harsh. On the contrary, they were lenient in the extreme and that the Dutch people recognized their leniency is proved by the statement, often repeated at gatherings, political and otherwise, on the Backveld, that England had waged war for the benefit of the capitalists, that she knew it was an unjust war, and had for that reason given the country back to them. That, in itself, proves that the British Government meted out far

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better terms than the Boer population ever expected.

Shortly after the cessation of hostilities the British Government granted the right of self-government to both old republics, and in the Transvaal and Free State the Dutch population were reinvested with the power of administering their own affairs. The fair-minded Dutchmen in these States readily admitted that they had been well treated by the British Government, and looked upon the English as good-natured madmen who went to war for the love of fighting and who, after gaining possession of a new country, handed it back again to their erstwhile enemies. To a people whose experience of warfare had been con-

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fined to overcoming native tribes, such a proceeding was unheard of and was difficult to understand.

It must be borne in mind that there are almost as many kinds of Dutchmen in South Africa as there are nations in Europe, and to some of them the action of the British Government plainly showed its good intention, while to others it was a profession of weakness, and all they saw in it was an attempt made by England to placate the Boers. It is this section of the Dutch people which is responsible for the present rebellion.

The townsman has a habit—and a habit which should not be cultivated—of classing all kinds of Dutch

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people in South Africa under the general name of Boers. They are not all Boers, and those who are engaged in agricultural pursuits range from, in English equivalents, landed proprietors to farm labourers and peasants. All the agriculturists, however, are known as Boers, which name allows of no discrimination between the man who owns 6,000 acres of land, huge flocks of sheep and large herds of cattle, and the man who owns no land whatever and who possesses only a few head of small stock. The difference between these men is very great, not only in worldly possessions but in their mode of living and in the view they take of the political situation. To class both under the same

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heading is a mistake, as can be easily understood. In addition to these types of Dutchmen, there are many others whose views and ideals do not in the least coincide. There are, for instance, the small tenant-farmer, who hires a small section of land from a large landowner and who works his farm without outside help, and the tenant-farmer on a larger scale, with a larger farm and larger flocks, who employs a number of natives and several European labourers. These form a type of their own, who hold a feeling of contempt towards the *bijwoner*, or European labourer, and a feeling of jealousy towards the landed proprietor, who is also the landlord. Then there are the Dutch

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people who fill professional positions, and the Dutchmen on the railway, in the mines, and in stores.

The views of all these types are divergent, and it may be confidently asserted that the rebellious Dutchmen are, for the most part, men who have not, and in all probability never will have, an acre of ground or a decent flock of sheep to their names. "On commando" to them is a term meaning a happy time of riding on horseback from town to town, living on the country as they proceed and doing no work. Among these commandoes, of course, will be found some of the smaller tenant-farmers and a lesser number of landed proprietors who, either because of political pique

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or misrepresentation, have been induced to take the field.

For these different types of misguided Dutchmen some modicum of excuse can be forthcoming, as I shall presently show, but for the leaders of this mad escapade there can be no excuse, for they, unlike their followers, have received some, and in cases, a first-class, education.

It is usual to refer to the Dutch as an ignorant people, and while this is not entirely so, it is to a large extent unfortunately true, especially with regard to the outside world. In many Dutch homes—and when referring to the homes of the *bijwoners* and small tenant-farmers, who together form a majority of the Dutch agricultural

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population, one may say in the majority of such homes—the reading matter is confined to the Bible and to pamphlets issued by patent-medicine makers. These people have a *penchant* for learning all they can about the ghastly sores and terrible pains which are explained at length in these pamphlets, while the Old Testament possesses a great attraction for them, especially the passages describing how the chosen people overthrew their enemies, and those particularly touching sentences such as the one in which the Psalmist asks for aid to enable him to smash his enemy's teeth in his mouth. A traveller may go many miles and call at many Dutch homes without

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finding a newspaper in one of them. Newspapers and novels are considered to be mere tissues of lies, and reading is looked upon as a waste of time. The authenticity of a geography book is doubted, for there it is stated that the earth revolves round the sun, while the Bible states that Joshua, in one of his battles, commanded the sun to stand still and it did so! This argument was used against me by farmers on more than one occasion.

Among such people, as will readily be seen, the German agents, who have been exceedingly active during the past four or five years, found excellent soil in which to sow their seeds. That these German agents are to

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blame for the rebellion is easily proved. The majority of the Dutch people living away from the towns are not a reading public, but they knew that the German Army was five times larger than that of Britain, that the German Fleet was being rapidly increased, and that war between the two Empires was approaching. They talked of rebellions in India and Ireland as absolute certainties, and they were certain in their own minds that the British Empire was crumbling and decayed. "When you drop water on blacklead," said one of the savants of the Backveld, "it goes to dust. England is the blacklead and the Transvaal is the water." South Africa was going to take the lead

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in breaking up the Empire, and
Canada, India, Ireland, and Australia
would quickly follow suit. What
America had done South Africa could
also do. Were not the Dutch first in
America, as they were first in South
Africa? Had not the English stolen
the country from them, as they had
stolen South Africa? Of course they
had, and they had made America into
a British colony. But America was
now a republic, and South Africa
soon would become a republic also.
This kind of talk, and much more to
the same effect, could be heard from
one end of the country to the other.
The old cry of "Afrika voor de
Afrikander" and the weak joke re-
ferring to the eating of bananas in

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Natal were resuscitated, and—this was in 1904—it was asserted in Northern Natal, in the Free State in the districts near the Vaal, in the Zoutpansberg, and in the Bushveld of the Transvaal, that a South African Republic would come into existence in ten or fifteen years' time.

In those days, it may be mentioned, General Louis Botha was the idol of the Dutch throughout the country, and after the unveiling ceremony of the memorial erected at Vryheid to the forty burghers who were killed by Zulus during the Boer War, at which ceremony General Botha took a leading part, the burghers in that and the surrounding districts spoke confidently of the republic that would

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eventually come into existence. It is only fair to add that General Botha said nothing on that occasion, or on any other occasion, so far as the writer knows, to call these republican hopes into being.

In almost every district there is a section of the Dutch who give utterance to anti-British sentiments. For years they have been allowed to say just what they pleased, while the moderate Dutch and loyal Britishers have regarded these malcontents more with pity than with disgust. Many of these men have been elected as representatives of the people, and in the Free State, at any rate, the man who could make the best anti-British speech and condemn the English in

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the most insulting terms was certain to obtain a majority at any election. A large number of them were so expert in this connection that they were returned unopposed to Parliament.

One of the greatest blights that ever made itself known in South Africa was the Afrikaner Bond, which incubated the germ of racialism. A pernicious offshoot of the Bond was the Orangia Unie, which, during its short existence, did more harm than even the organization from which it sprang had been able to accomplish in the thirty years of its existence. Ostensibly the Unie was a political organization, while it was in reality a society called into being with the

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specific object of forming a great South African Republic. In each district town a branch of the organization existed, and sub-branches were created throughout the respective districts. The headquarters of the Unie were at Bloemfontein. Mr. Steyn, Mr. Hertzog, and Mr. Christian de Wet were the prominent leaders on the headquarters staff. They laid the eggs and gave them to the district committees to hatch.

About the same time another organization, similar in some respects to the Unie, was overrunning the Transvaal. This was known as "Het Volk," of which General Botha was commander-in-chief. The Transvaal organization, however, was a *bona-fide* political

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organization. It made no aim at an Afrikaner oligarchy—that is to say, its leaders made no such aim, but many of its supporters, infected with the pernicious doctrine of the Free State, saw in it a means to an end. And that end was a South African Republic.

In Northern Natal an organization called the Boeren Vereeniging was established, and its sphere of activity comprised the districts of Vryheid, Paulpietersburg, Utrecht, Wakkerstroom, and a portion of Dundee. Its members could be found in the area bounded by the Pongola and the White Umvelosi Rivers on the one side and between Dundee and Volksrust on the other side. The moving

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spirit of this organization was a German gentleman, who held a responsible position under the Republican Government. This position he lost after the British occupation, and became the keeper of a bottle store ! He, needless to say, held extreme anti-British views. The number of Germans who lived in this part of the country—a part that was formerly known as the New Republic—was large, and they were the accredited leaders of the Boer population. As Members of Parliament, as Town Councillors, and as secretaries of their organizations the Boer population elected them.

On the banks of the Pongola there is a German settlement which as the

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home of anti-English feeling must stand pre-eminent. Its foremost man is a storekeeper, who for years has been bringing himself prominently to the notice of the Imperial Government in making claims for compensation for losses which he alleges he suffered during the South African War. His claims have formed the subject-matter of several "notes" from the German Government to the British Government. He, like many of his compatriots, is dissatisfied with British rule in South Africa. All the settlers at this place were fighting for the South African Republic in the last war, and one of them, the schoolmaster, was an officer in the Free State Artillery. Previous to coming

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to South Africa he was in the Artillery, and the last time they saw him he was engaged in designing a new coat-of-arms for South Africa, and the most prominent feature of the sketch was an eagle of the Prussian variety! "The Day" was evidently well established in his mind. There is another German settlement in Natal, in the district of New Hanover, and there are others in the Transvaal and in the Cape, notably round Berlin, in the Eastern Province, and on the Cape Flats.

For some inexplicable reason these Germans are obsessed with one idea the decline of Britain into a petty State. They have been admitted to British citizenship on equal terms

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with the British-born. The chances in life and of wealth are equally open to them, and they live under the same laws as Englishmen, Scotsmen, Irishmen, and British Colonials. They have no just cause for complaint; in fact, they have less cause for complaint than the Britisher, who would be justified in objecting to the too hospitable treatment of aliens which the Imperial Government has always accorded. They are, and have been for many years past, a dangerous menace to the security and peace of the country; especially is this true of the alien storekeeper, who pitches his tent in the sparsely populated areas of the Backveld. Anxious to curry favour with the

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farmers, he listens and adds to their impossible hopes. He trades upon their ignorance, and, for the purpose of ingratiating himself in the farmer's favour, he gives garbled versions, in a manner that he knows will be acceptable to the recipient, of the various political questions of the day. A certain type of country storekeeper has a great deal to answer for by deluding a section of the Boer community in fostering hopes that can never be attained and by promulgating schemes that can never be achieved. This type is nothing more than a parasite. His sole aim in life is to wax fat on labour not his own, and he is persistent in his plaint that "there was more money in the country

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before the English came.” The ignorant Boer agrees with him. He will agree with any statement that condemns England, and north, south, east, and west “before the English came” is the one phrase that seems everlasting. When the tick fever was raging through northern Natal, I heard farmers say there were never such cattle diseases “before the English came.” Near the Vaal River in the Free State another farmer told me he had better crops “before the English came.” More rain used to fall “before the English came,” glanders was unknown “before the English came,” and so on, showing clearly that the English must be blamed, justly and unjustly, as con-

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venient opportunities for so doing arose.

To the townsman such vapourings, no doubt, appear childish and unworthy even of contempt. In the Backveld, however, they convey a virulent meaning, and it is not wrong to state that during the past decade there has been engendered in certain sections of the Dutch people an acute anti-English feeling, which has been steadily and surely increasing until it has assumed a proportion far greater than ever existed in the bitter days of 1899.

At any gathering of Boers, whether purely informal or whether of a religious or political character, the conversation would invariably turn upon

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the condemned English, who were accused of having murdered and having committed unspeakable atrocities upon the Boer people. Their children were made to believe the truth of these allegations, and photos of relatives were shown them, with the information: This is your oom Davie, whom the English murdered at such a place; this is your Tante Sara and your poor little neef Koos, whom the English murdered at some other place. In this way the flame of racialism is kept from dying, and those who fan the flame are ably assisted by the Veld Cornets and some types of school-teachers. These people are the paid recruiting sergeants of the organizations which aim at an Afrikaner

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State. The Veld Cornet prepares the political food for the farmers, while the type of teacher referred to prepares the juveniles for admission to the racial ring.

That ancient fable of Slachter's Nek has not yet lost its power to charm, and, despite the Minute issued by the Education Department, this incident of South African history is taught as a cold-blooded murder perpetrated by the English authorities upon an almost defenceless man. The acquisition of the Diamond Fields by Britain is another episode which in the hands of a "patriotic" teacher lends itself to the exposure of the "underhand methods" adopted by that "lagere natie, de Engelse." In the lower standards the

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ll seeds of racialism are sown, while in the higher classes are planted the heinous sins of England—the theft of Canada from the French and the chicanery which made India a British possession.

It is interesting to note that in the Free State education is free, in so far that parents do not pay school fees. The salaries of the type of teacher mentioned above come out of revenue derived from Customs duties, etc. The townspeople—for the most part Britishers—pay the greater proportion of these duties, and in so doing it would seem that they are paying for the sharpening of the razor which is to be used in cutting their throats. It would be very un-

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becoming on my part to attempt to throw discredit upon all the members of an honourable profession, and such is not my intention, any more than it is my desire to accuse all Dutch South Africans of disloyalty. I do maintain, however, that there are far too many teachers who are not a credit to the profession by reason of their racial leanings, and that there are far too many Dutch South Africans who are not imbued with some degree of loyalty that the Britisher, not unjustly, expects of them.

Of course, the root of the whole silly business is ignorance. And where ignorance is, there distrust will be found also. From distrust to hatred is but a step. And the sole reason for the

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retrogressive Dutchman's hatred of England is his inability to understand her motive and his ignorance of the outside world. For this he cannot be blamed, for no man can see beyond the horizon. The Dutchman's horizon, unfortunately, is closely circumscribed. He has had no opportunity given to him to develop his natural intelligence. The little education that he has received was given to him in all probability by some deserter from either the Navy or the Army. That he is not the possessor of broad views is not a matter for surprise. His poor educational equipment has left him a prey to any political harpy who appeared upon his limited horizon. In the same way as the Russian

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mousjik, the Boer has been kept in a state of ignorance in order that he might be exploited to greater advantage by the charlatans who hankered after political power. These so-called leaders have recognized the great amount of labour that the education of the Boers would entail, and they have shirked the task. With a stock of vapid phrases, interlarded with the rousing words of "Ons Land, Ons Volk, en Ons Taal," they have succeeded in winning the confidence of the poor fools who have listened to them, and have been elected to positions of trust—positions which they have at length proved their utter inability to fill.

The Boer has been for some long time in the unfortunate position of a

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milch cow, which his own people as well as aliens frequently, one may say continuously, milked. They said the milk was rich and the Boer was satisfied. A little praise, judiciously administered, is a paying investment, and this is particularly so when the recipient of such praise is a Backvelder. He is an egoist, and his so-called leaders—some of them, at any rate—have not tried to cure his failing. Loose-tongued Britishers, deserters from the Army, who have been employed as farm hands, have also contributed to the deception that has been practised upon him by their assertions that they would never again fight for the Empire on account of the bad treatment that they had received.

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The Boer has not the gift of sifting evidence, and the statements made by political charlatans, by parasitical store-keepers, and by renegade Britishers all convinced him that the Empire had shot its bolt. He maintains that England never conquered him, and that he was fighting against all the world. Australians, Canadians, New Zealanders, Scotsmen, Irishmen, Englishmen, and, worst, of all, Afrikanders, were against him. He does not know the meaning of Empire, and his leaders have carefully refrained from explaining that meaning to him. When he does understand—and that will be when he is educated enough to elect the right stamp of man as his parliamentary representative—he will be

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loyal. At present he is a chrysalis, unable to escape from the parasites which surround him, and subsisting upon the fare they care to give him.

When the Union of the States was mooted, a degree of greater activity among German agents was apparent. Just before Bambata's rebellion, two of these agents were busily engaged in Zululand. One of them was Captain Schmidt, of the German Artillery, who has made some little name for himself as an assistant director of fortifications in the Fatherland, while his companion was addressed as Herr von Hageneck. They made their headquarters at Vryheid, and gave the information gratis that they were prospectors. This informa-

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tion caused no surprise, for it was known that the district contained minerals of several kinds. A few days after their arrival another German, who also said he was a prospector, appeared upon the scene. He was known as Dr. Grün, and he had been prospecting for tin near the German settlement on the Pongola. It was only natural that these sons of the Fatherland, meeting in a casual way in an up-country hotel on the border of Zululand, should settle themselves down for a good long chat.

By a coincidence, of course, a German missionary, whose station was some forty miles distant, the German secretary of the Boeren Vereeniging, a Member of Parliament, also a

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German, and a German hotel-keeper from about thirty miles distant, entered the same hotel at almost the same hour, and, of course, joined the distinguished prospectors, their countrymen. Less than half an hour after their meeting they adjourned to the room occupied by Captain Schmidt, and remained there for some hours. It may, of course, be the recognized way in which captains of the German Army show their hospitality to their fellow-countrymen in strange countries. To the Britisher it seems an odd proceeding to invite four strangers to one's room after a conversation of twenty minutes or so. But, then, we are so insular !

At any rate, the following day, with

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the newspaper man's insatiable appetite for "copy," I made myself known to the Captain, and found him a most interesting person. In the course of conversation I ascertained that within the space of two months he had been to Capetown, Kimberley, Bloemfontein, Pretoria, Delagoa Bay, and Zululand. His next journey would be to Durban. That a prospector should cover such a large area in so short a space of time indicates that his prospecting operations have not been attended with any great degree of success. I asked him if he had struck anything rich, and in reply he brought from his jacket-pocket two pieces of quartz bearing an amount of gold that would gladden the heart of many shareholders.

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He, however, did not appear to be very enthusiastic about his find, and from the replies he gave to my questions he did not appear to know a great deal about mineralogy or auriferous stones. He volunteered the information that he had struck a reef in the neighbourhood of St. Lucia Bay. St. Lucia Bay, a lagoon, the home of the sea-cow—and quartzite!

That evening the genial Captain introduced me to his two friends, Herr von Hageneck and Dr. Grün, and, after some conversation, a game of dominoes was decided upon. The most striking features of that game were the white, well-manicured fingers of the prospectors! The sun had failed to leave traces on the backs of their

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hands, and when I glanced at the backs of their necks and tips of their ears I found them devoid of sunburn. At that time I did not know that the pet hobby of the Captain was fortifications, but in the gentleman von Hageneck, whose long, fiery red beard had earned him the name of "Barbarossa" among his subordinates in Berlin Government circles, I recognized the person before whom I had had to appear some years previously in Berlin in connection with the extension of my passport.

The game of dominoes having been finished, a general conversation ensued, but it was not long before the political situation was broached. They were particularly anxious to know if the

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results of union would be satisfactory or otherwise, and they were all of opinion that the districts of Vryheid, Utrecht, and Wakkerstroom should revert to the Transvaal.

Some few days afterwards a paragraph was sent to me for publication to the effect that the Boeren Vereeniging objected to the finding of the Borders Delimitation Commission that the Pongola River should be the boundary between the Transvaal and Natal, and requested that the districts south of that river, which had been added to Natal after the war, should be handed back to the Transvaal. This is another of those startling coincidences which were noticeable during the visit of the German prospectors.

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It may be wondered why the Germans are such *personæ gratae* with the Boers. If the trouble of turning up the *Koloniales Jahrbuch*, published by authority in Berlin, be taken, it will be seen that there exists no cause for wonder. Referring to British South Africa, it states there that the Boer population in those possessions must be continually reminded of their Low German origin, and that Teuton ideals must be disseminated throughout these possessions by means of German churches and German schools, and that the Anglo-Saxon element must be eliminated. For the past thirty years Germany has spared no effort in reminding the Boers of their Low German origin and the so-called affinity

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of ideals which must exist between them. They have spread Teuton ideals from one end of the country to the other, and they have done their best to get the Anglo-Saxon element eliminated.

In the late 'eighties, Bismarck was practically the ruler of the South African Republic, for Leyds sought and acted upon the advice of the Chancellor. He accepted the Chancellor's suggestion that the management of a certain bank in the Transvaal should be given to a German ex-officer of the Army and an ex-Governor of Samoa. From his fertile brain grew the large South African Secret Service, the ramifications of which reached to England, France, and Canada. Newspapers, journalists, and politicians in

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South Africa, England, France, and Germany were subsidized in order to preach the policy of Afrikanerdom, and even the secretary of an Irish Association in Canada—of all places—was on the list of active workers in this connection. Payments for services rendered were made through the Berlin Handelsgesellschaft.

The prime mover in the establishment of the Afrikaner Bond was a German, the late Carl Borkenhagen, editor of a newspaper published in Bloemfontein, and the aim of that organization was distinctly anti-British. It supported the Teuton ideal "that the Anglo-Saxon element must be eliminated." The late Mr. Jan Hofmeyr, however, clipped the wings of that

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organization in the Cape Colony, but in the Free State and in the Transvaal its progress was unhindered.

At about the same period, Berlin suggested that the Boer States should support the purchase by Germany of Delagoa Bay and the establishment of a German protectorate over Amatongaland, north of Zululand. A German syndicate was formed to carry the Delagoa railway from the Portuguese border to Pretoria, and a German trading company was formed at Berlin to explore Amatongaland. The plan most favoured was to get the whole railway from Pretoria to Delagoa Bay into German hands, and at the same time to get possession of an independent outlet to the sea

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through Amatongaland. Associated with this was a larger scheme for pushing northwards to the Zambesi and obtaining possession of the country north of Bechuanaland. Germany had annexed Damaraland, and the intention was to extend their sphere of control to the western border of the Transvaal. They would then have secured a right of way across the continent of Africa.

This scheme found much favour in Germany, where the Pan-Germanic society known as the Deutsche Koloniale Verein, under the presidency of Prince Hohenlohe Langenburg, had been started, and might have been realized but for the unexpected turn given to European politics by the revolution in Eastern Roumelia. At

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the ensuing gathering of German and Russian statesmen, the Skierniewice meeting, Russia received from Germany a free hand to make whatever advances she liked on the Afghanistan border, and Germany took advantage of the embroilment to push her colonizing schemes in Africa and elsewhere.

The seizing of Angra Pequena had given her a footing on the West Coast, and on the East Coast the movements of German gunboats were so ambiguous that to put a stop to public excitement an English warship had to be hurried off to place St. Lucia Bay under British protection—St. Lucia Bay, where my military friend the prospector had found a gold-reef!

Germany then put forward pretensions

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to Pondoland, and had it not been for the hostility between the Russians and Germans that grew out of the Bulgarian question, and the renewal of the warlike feeling in France, there can be little doubt, judging from the action of Germany in New Guinea, Zanzibar, and Samoa, that a serious effort would have been made to realize the idea of running a belt of Boer-German territory right across Africa, north of the British colonies, and preventing any further expansion of English dominion towards the Zambesi. Bismarck's organ, *Das Nachrichten*, said as much in 1890, when an inspired article dealing with the occupation of the Cameroons concluded with the words: "The next

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piece of African territory to belong to the Fatherland will be the Transvaal."

Matters had progressed so favourably that a line of railway was under consideration to run from Angra Pequena to Johannesburg. The proposed route had been surveyed. Another railway line, from Kosi Bay, in Amatongaland, was projected, to cross the Lebombo mountains by the Umgovumu gorge, penetrating to within thirty miles of Barberton and turning off by the Lotiti route to Pretoria. Germany wanted and still wants a coaling station in East Africa; Kosi Bay, which lies near the coal-beds of the Amatonga and Swazi country, whence coal, by drifting down the river, could be

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obtained for a few shillings per ton, fulfils all requirements.

Germany wants territory and trade in addition to coaling stations, and for these reasons Germans make themselves *personæ gratæ* with the Boers. For these reasons also they offered the Tonga chiefs a number of horses and cattle and £200 in gold for a right of way through the Pongola gorge to Kosi Bay. And near the Pongola is a German settlement—already mentioned.

This superficial friendliness for the Boers, which the Germans are supposed to entertain, exists purely and simply for the self-aggrandizement of Germany, the promulgation of Teuton ideals, and the elimination of the

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Anglo-Saxon element. In order to effect this latter desire, a Berlin scheme was promulgated showing "how a few regiments of Prussian infantry may enter the Transvaal by way of Delagoa Bay as miners, artisans, clerks, etc., and, once in, defy British authority and, once and for all, hang this annoying question of suzerainty on the nail."

So keen is Germany to effect her desires that she keeps an army of agents stationed throughout South Africa in order to work upon the feelings of the Boers and stir up racial animosity. Just before Union, German agents came into the Cape Colony from Damaraland in order to ascertain the position and size of the

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waterholes in colonial territory. They carried letters of introduction from the German officer commanding the troops in Damaraland to prominent Germans in British Namaqualand, and they were particularly anxious to find the number of men and horses which could be watered at one time at any waterhole. They visited the farmers in the district and spread the Teuton gospel, at the same time as they spread the seeds of discontent which have ripened into rebellion.

When the Union of States was consummated, and later when the Dutch Reformed Churches in the several States amalgamated, the Boer felt that at last his dream of Dutch Dominion was on the point of materializing. As

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the result of the elections in the Cape, Transvaal, and Free State, the Afrikaner party secured 65 members out of a possible 104, while in the Senate they secured 23 out of the 40 seats. Having obtained the power they desired, they were not long in using it, and in order to make "Afrika voor Afrikaners" possible they commenced a campaign against the British Civil servant and against the British police officer. These men were dismissed and their places were taken by Afrikaners. This has been denied, but the fact remains that Britishers were replaced by Afrikaners, and in some cases the number of Afrikaners taken on in place of Britishers outnumbered those who had been

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retrenched. This is more in evidence in the Free State.

When General Botha laid down his policy on a foundation of absolute equal rights, his following, to a certain extent, began to decrease in numbers. This was not at all to their liking, and he was accused by retrogressive countrymen of his own of having been bought by the English. This is a common assertion made by a type of Boer against a political leader with whose policy he does not agree. A statement frequently uttered on the Backveld is to the effect that had certain Afrikaners not joined the National Scouts, and had there been fewer "hands-uppers," the Republican forces would have victoriously emerged

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from the war. Generals Prinsloo and Cronje are stated to have surrendered to the British because they received £1 per head for every burgher they handed over! This is the type of man with which we have to deal; the type that the Germans have found an easy prey!

The breach was gradually and surely becoming wider between the retrogressive Dutch section and the moderate Dutch and Britishers. It only required a fanatic like Hertzog to drive the wedge deeper. Whatever may have been his object, whether it was political power that swept him on his course or whether it was his firm belief that the Dutch people were being harshly treated, it cannot be

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denied that his wild utterances have helped to land many of his countrymen in the precarious position in which they now find themselves.

It may be that it was never his intention to incite the Afrikanders to rebellion, but that does not alter the fact that his badly chosen sentences have caused many Boers to defy the authority of the Government. Instead of teaching his followers the real meaning of Empire, he preached the gospel of Africa first and then the Empire. This, in so far as it means that South Africans may control their internal affairs without outside interference, is quite all right. But the majority of the Boers in the Free State have not taken it in that light.

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They have taken the meaning to be South Africa first and the Empire nowhere. Mr. Hertzog should have used every endeavour to correct the impression that his followers had obtained from his speech. Instead of doing so, however, he made as much capital as he possibly could out of the support which had been accorded to him under a misapprehension. That the support which he was able to command had been given to him owing to a misunderstanding on the part of his followers is proved by the fact that in his explanation of his De Wild speech, in which he said South Africa must come before the Empire, he pointed out that South Africans must first look after their

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internal affairs before the affairs of Empire. The Boer did not accept that meaning of the phrase, and, therefore, Mr. Hertzog was endowed with a power to which he had no right.

Had he made it his business to go before the Boers and explain his real meaning to them, it is doubtful if he would have had a following sufficiently strong to form another political organization. He, however, made no attempt to set his followers right upon the matter. Had he done so, it may be safely asserted that there would have been no attempt at rebellion on the part of the Boers. But he told them that Empire meant land-grabbing, and when he made

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that statement he soaped the stairs down which his countrymen have fallen.

For a couple of years or so Mr. Hertzog has preached his "two-stream" policy, as against the "one-stream" policy of General Botha. His followers have accepted that policy to mean that there can be no cohesion between the Dutch and English speaking peoples in South Africa; that there must be a great gulf between the two nationalities. And the Union of the States did not mean to them a union of the peoples. It was considered to be a step nearer to the Afrikaner ideal of an Afrikaner Republic. Mr. Hertzog has made no attempt to show his followers the futility of entertaining such

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a hope. He has, on the other hand, done his utmost to create dissension among the people throughout the length and breadth of the country, and in this he has been ably supported by Mr. Christian de Wet and Mr. C. F. Beyers.

Mr. Hertzog is an able and well-educated man, and that description can also be applied to Mr. Beyers. The legal training that both men have received should surely have enabled them to have ascertained the *fons et origo* of the disaffection of the Boers, and, having ascertained that, to have devised a means for its removal. They have not done so. By employing language used by the old Voortrekkers they have caused

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disaffection to appear where previously there was none.

Both Mr. Hertzog and Mr. Beyers were present at the Vereeniging Conference of Generals of the British and of the Republican Forces. Mr. Beyers was chairman of that Conference, and both of them accepted the terms of the Treaty of Peace which was there concluded, as did Mr. Christian de Wet, who was also present. If the terms contained therein were repugnant to them, if they considered them to be unfair, and if they thought the Boer people were the subjects of harsh treatment, why, then, did they accept such terms by appending their signatures thereto? They, however, deemed it advisable to agree

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to the terms embodied in the Treaty, and it was only after the lapse of a few years, when each of these signatories was stirring up strife among his countrymen, that Mr. Beyers paraded the country giving utterance to wild phrases and proving that he was utterly devoid of the qualities with which statesmen are endowed. So much harm did he cause that it was deemed necessary to clip his wings, and he was elected Speaker of the Transvaal House of Assembly, a position which prevented him from giving utterance to his anti-British sentiments.

When the Union of the States had been effected, Mr. Beyers found himself in the position of a private

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Member of Parliament, and he again adopted his racial tactics. To prevent him from doing more harm than he had already accomplished he was appointed to a non-political position, that of Commandant-General of the Defence Force. In this position, publicly, at any rate, he had no opportunity of airing his ultra-Afrikander and pro-German views.

It is worthy of note that during Mr. Beyers' tenure of office as General of the Defence Force he never wore a uniform of the British style, such as his brother general and officers of his staff wore. The regulation khaki tunic was discarded by him, and in its place he had a tunic of blue material—perhaps Prussian

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blue—fronted with two rows of brass buttons.

Both Mr. de Wet and Mr. Hertzog were members of the National Convention at which the following resolution was adopted :—

In the opinion of this Conference the best interests and the permanent prosperity of South Africa can only be secured by an early union, under the Crown of Great Britain, of the several self-governing colonies.

“ Under the Crown of Great Britain ” is what they agreed to, and not under the guardianship of the Governor of German South-West Africa or the Prussian Crown.

Mr. de Wet, Mr. Hertzog, and Mr. Beyers, as Members of Parliament, must, at one time or another, before

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taking their seats in the House, have made or subscribed before the Governor-General an oath or affirmation in this form :—

I, ..., do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to H.M. King Edward VII, his heirs and successors according to law.

Mr. Beyers and Mr. de Wet have failed to carry out their solemn undertaking.

Mr. Hertzog, when asked to tender his advice as to the best means of quelling the rebellion, replied that his advice in the past had not been taken, and it would be useless for him to tender any further advice. Had he been the patriot, the deliverer of his people that he would have

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us believe he is, he would have seized the opportunity given to him to induce the misguided wretches to lay down their arms, and would have spared himself no effort until he had succeeded in getting them to return to their homes.

Mr. Steyn, another patriot, informs the public that he is too ill to advise in the matter. Nobody expects a great effort from a man of his years and afflicted as he is, but in Bloemfontein, a stone's throw from "Onze Rust," the old President's house, he has relatives who could take down a message from his dictation. Only one small message is needed to be handed to a news-distributing agency and the following morning it could be

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reproduced in the Dutch and English Press. The ex-President has not risen to the occasion. It has been left to a handful of loyal Afrikanders in Capetown to attempt to remove the stain which has been thrown upon their name.

The Dutch Reformed Church, of course, denounced the rebellion, but the leaders of that Church would have done well had they condemned years ago the utterances of some of their predikants, especially in up-country churches. They should have let it be known that they disapproved of the use of prayers to the Almighty which were interlarded with political views and aspirations, and they should have discountenanced the practice of using

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sacred edifices for the dissemination of race hatred, as has been the practice, especially at celebrations of Dingaan's Day.

When one takes into consideration the manner in which the feelings of poor and ignorant Afrikanders have been played upon by certain types of predikants, politicians, storekeepers, and German agents, it is a matter for wonder that the whole of the Union is not one big battlefield of civil strife. That it is not is the highest testimony in favour of the loyal Afrikanders and to the marvellous qualities of General Botha and General Smuts that could be adduced.

About a year ago a monument to the memory of the Boer women and

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children who died during the South African War was unveiled at Bloemfontein. At that ceremony Afrikanders from all parts of the Union were present, and addresses were delivered by prominent leaders of the people. In all the speeches, as reported both in the English and Dutch Press, there is not the slightest trace of racial animus. All are characterized by the same moderate tone. It is a matter for surprise, then, that from this date the Boer people, more especially in the Free State and in the Transvaal Bushveld, have been imbued with a greater belief than they had hitherto held in the nearing approach of a republic. They were waiting for the time when England and Germany

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would be at war one with the other, when they would declare their independence. They were confident in their assertion that England would never attempt to fight against them because the last war had cost too much. The republic was coming. It might be in the space of five years or it might be less, but come it would. And Mr. Beyers was to be the first President !

After the unveiling ceremony the difference between the Botha men and the Hertzog men, as they called themselves, grew into absolute hatred. In the farm-houses one could hear the father ask his little child, who could scarcely talk : " Wat is je ? Is je 'n Botha Kind ? " And the child

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would reply: "Ach! sis!" and spit upon the ground. "Wel, wat is je?" the father would continue. "Is je 'n Hertzog Kind?" "Ja, ja, ik is 'n Hertzog Kind," would be the joyful reply. To such a depth had political bias penetrated, and the rebellion has been brought into existence more on account of political pique than anything else.

The position that General Botha held in the estimation of these people was peculiar. They all recognized that he was an able man and a first-class fighting general, but he had become too English. And he had certainly made a mistake in allowing himself to be made a general in the British Army. How he could have been so foolish

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they could not understand, for—and here they showed their solicitude for his welfare—he could never fight against England, because, being an English general, he was liable to be shot if he made any such attempt!

General Botha will, no doubt, be pleased to learn that in the proposed republic he was not to be overlooked when appointments were being made. Although in these latter days he had become too English, they could not forget that in the old days he had served his country well, and recognizing that he could not pull well with the Hertzog men, they would give him a non-political post. They would make him Commandant - General of the Burgher Forces! It would seem that

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General Botha has now thrown away all his chances of ever obtaining that appointment !

General Smuts, however, was not to be so well treated, and, no doubt, it will cause him the most poignant grief to learn that no appointment was to fall to his lot. He was beyond the pale, for not only had he become too English—which was bad enough in all conscience—but, most horrible of all things, he was an Atheist ! So General Smuts, who was recently eulogized by General Botha as a man of “brilliant intellect, calm judgment, amazing energy, and undaunted courage,” was dismissed with a sigh and a sad shake of the head by these Backveld creators of dynasties !

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The Boer has grievances, mostly imaginary, it is true, and chief among them is the curtailment of his power over his native servants. In Republican days he was enabled to instil a certain amount of discipline into his natives in his own way. In these days, if he attempts to do so, he is liable to be called before the magistrate and to be mulcted in a fine. Many farmers live a long distance from the nearest court, and to take a refractory native there to have him punished would entail a long journey backwards and forwards which would run well into a day. Under the old *régime*, a farmer meted out punishment to his servants, but to-day he is prohibited from so doing, and consequently many natives who are

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deserving of some punishment do not receive it because it is too far to the nearest court. Some natives take advantage of this and cause farmers endless trouble. When native labour is scarce farmers cannot summarily dismiss these recalcitrant servants, and must needs endure the inconveniences they are capable of causing. There is certainly some room for improvement in the existing state of affairs in this connection.

Another grievance is connected with the education of his children. He is of opinion that the child should be taught in school and not *per media* of home lessons. His child when he returns from school must help with the milking and kraaling of the cattle and

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not pore over schoolbooks. This is a matter which could be easily remedied.

These slight grievances, and the language clauses in the Act of Union, have been used for the purpose of making the Boer discontented. Mountains have been made out of molehills, and the highest form of patriotism has been considered to be the fostering of race hatred.

Out in the open veld, away from dwelling-houses, meetings of these farmers have been held, and there always has been somebody present to inflame their passions by judiciously dropping the insidious poison of racialism. Texts from the Bible have been copiously quoted in an endeavour to show that the Almighty would not

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desert His people now, as He had not deserted the Voortrekkers in the past. To rouse the rebellious spirit there has been employed a curious blending of religion and cunning, and the only people who were animated with a real spirit of nationalism were the poorly educated sons of the soil. Their spokesmen were animated with a spirit of self. The predikants wanted to obtain more favour, the politicians wanted more votes, the storekeepers wanted more profits, and the German agents wanted more power. The welfare of the country to them was a secondary consideration.

These mountebanks have used the Boer as a pawn in the game of their self-advancement, and the alien store-

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keeper and the German, who under the Republican Government held a position of profit, and who do not hold that position to-day, have been most assiduous in their efforts to work up internal strife and dissension. These efforts have resulted in some thousands of men taking the field in armed rebellion against the Government; in some thousands of other men armed to assist the Government in quelling the rebellion; in a number of men on both sides being killed or wounded; in an armed struggle between the members of the same family; in the name of Afrikaner or Boer being discredited by other nations, and in the confidence of the European investor being shaken, perhaps shattered.

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During 1914, in the northern Transvaal, in the Free State, in German South-West Africa, and in other parts of South Africa, the references made to the proposed republic were couched in almost identical terms. These Republikaners, no matter in which part of the country they resided, were absolutely at one upon the essentials. The plan propounded by a Boer in, say, the Frankfort district of the Free State for the establishment of a republic was identical with the plan set forth by, say, a stationmaster in the Heidelberg district of the Transvaal. This would seem to indicate the existence of an organizing mind, which had formulated the plan and had then made it known to those

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with Republican ideals throughout the land. The growth of the Republican sentiment during the last twelve months might lead one to believe that that plan was first made known on the occasion of the unveiling ceremony of the monument at Bloemfontein. A better occasion could not have been desired. Boers from all parts of the Union were present, and it would be an easy matter to "give them the office." If the plan had reached the ears of the Loyalists it would have been dismissed as mere idle talk. At any rate, the desire for a republic among the Boers has grown stronger during recent months, and whether they be Transvaalers, Free Staters, or Kaapenaars, whenever they refer to it

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the *modus operandi* for its establishment is always the same and the laws to be adopted after its establishment are always the same.

I have been able to ascertain the method to be employed by them in obtaining their independence, and also the measures that they would adopt when they had become a "Natie." I have not seen any treaty, nor am I aware that any such treaty exists; but in the different parts of the country where I have been—in the Cape, Natal, the Free State, Transvaal, and German South-West Africa—whenever I have heard the proposed republic mentioned I have noticed that the manner of its establishment and the things to be achieved afterwards

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never varied. Ten days before Maritz's treaty with the German Governor in the adjoining State was published, the appended details were given to a South African newspaper which was unable to publish them. I mention this in order that I may not be accused of re-hashing Maritz's effusion.

A treaty was to be concluded between the Afrikaners who desired a republic and the German Government, which would come into force as soon as Germany had declared war upon England. The terms of the treaty were to be to the effect that the Republican Boers would assist the Germans in a war against England, provided that Germany on her part and in return for such assistance

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would defend the proposed Republic from aggression, would recognize and help to maintain its independence.

The proposed Republic was to consist of the Transvaal, the Free State, Northern Natal, and the Province of Mozambique. Its northern boundary was to be the Zambesi. A portion of the Cape Province was to be included, but this was considered a matter for future arrangement. The Eastern Province of Natal, with the exception of the districts which had been allocated to that Province after the war, were to be excluded from the Republic on the grounds that they were too English and that Natal, in addition, was a coolie colony.

The Republic would welcome any

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person of any European nationality provided that he adopted the principles of Afrikanerdom.

The German Government could extend their boundary to the western border of the Transvaal and could have the country north of the Zambesi, as well as the Eastern Province and Natal, if they wanted them. The Germans could also have Walfish Bay and the surrounding islands.

The Republic was to be governed by a President and a Volksraad.

Indians and Jews were to be excluded.

The Burgher Law was to be re-introduced.

The Dutch Reformed Church was to become the State Church, and other

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denominations would not be hindered in any way.

Dutch was to be the official language, and no attempt would be made to suppress English, which would be allowed to be used in the law courts and would be taught in Schools, if so desired.

A Mint was to be established.

Existing laws relating to Natives were to be repealed and the old laws of the Republics to be re-enforced.

Woollen and leather factories were to be established on money advanced by the Republican Government.

The Gold Mines and Diamond Mines and Diggings were to be worked for the benefit of the State.

A Land Bank on a larger scale than the existing Bank was to be established.

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The Customs Tariff was to be revised and South African Produce and Manufactures were to be protected by high tariffs.

The Scab Law was to be repealed.

Defence was to be provided for by the Burgher Force, a strong Artillery Corps, and submerged mines round the seaboard.

Excise was to be reduced.

Income was to be derived from a general tax for education, defence, and the maintenance of public roads.

Education was to be in the hands of the people.

A Dutch University was to be established.

These were some of the most important matters which exercised the

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minds of the politicians of the Backveld.

Among these proposed measures there is nothing particularly outrageous, and it would seem that those now in rebellion have taken up arms merely for a change of the country's name. To them "Zuid Afrikaanse Republiek" possesses a peculiar charm; but in all their aims and ambitions there appears to be no just cause to force them into a state of armed rebellion against the Government. This proves that the majority of the men who have been induced to take such action have done so because the leaders of a certain faction desired a power that was withheld from them.

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The Boer loves his country. He is part of it and it is part of himself, but he has been deluded into grasping the shadow for the substance. He has been led to believe that the highest form of patriotism, of love of Fatherland, meant unswerving allegiance to a coterie of malcontents inebriated with their own egoism. The Boer is not infected with the germ of militarism; he does not sigh for new countries to conquer. He is a man of peace. Leave him in peace and he will remain a peaceful man. The true patriot is the man who tries to improve the condition of his countrymen. The men who have led the Boer into rebellion by specious promises and oily phrases are

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not patriots, for they tried only to improve their own condition.

The Boer in some matters betrays a purely childlike trust. He believes that the leaders of this anti-British faction are without guile, and he has considered the methods of the German agents as being above suspicion. What they had supposed was a dove's egg has taken on scale and fang.

The idea of the Republican Boer was that he should assist Germany in a war against England. The so-called treaty which has been manufactured in German South-West Africa, however, distinctly states that the Government of German South-West Africa will support the South African forces in the war against England. It

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further states that Maritz, acting in the name and on behalf of a number of officers and men who are prepared to declare the independence of South Africa, has declared that independence and has commenced war against England.

This is the German plan to shift the onus of the war upon the Boers, whom it has endeavoured to make out as being the aggressors. The Germans, according to this treaty, are not the principals in this war; they are simply allies of the Boers.

Had the whole Afrikander nation risen in rebellion against England on the understanding that had gained currency in the different parts of the country—namely, that they were to

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wait until Germany had declared war against England and then to render assistance to the German forces, on condition that Germany would recognize and would help to maintain the independence of South Africa, it is clear from the treaty entered into between the Government of German South-West Africa and Maritz that the Boers would have been the losers. They would have been basely deceived. In this so-called treaty it is clearly stated that the Germans have come to the aid of the Boers, which is quite a different view of the matter from that held by the Republicaners.

Another point in this treaty, which proves that the Boers were being ex-

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ploited for the benefit of the Germans, is that clause which deals with the ultimate settlement of the country. There it states that in the event of British South Africa being declared independent, "either partially or as a whole," the Imperial Government of German South-West Africa will take all possible measures to get that State or those States acknowledged as such by the German Empire as soon as possible, "and bring them under the terms of the general conclusion of peace."

This can only mean that the German Empire would, if victorious, have the power to delimitate the borders of any such republic, and it may be safely argued that neither the Witwatersrand

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nor the Diamond Fields would be included in that independent State.

This piece of political shuffling is typically Prussian, and, if further proof of Germany's despicable methods were necessary, reference need only be made to paragraph 4 of the Maritz treaty, where it is distinctly stated: "In consideration for such assistance" the newly formed States will have no objection to Germany taking possession of Walfish Bay, etc. Nothing more is needed to show that the Boer has been deliberately deluded into armed rebellion for the benefit of the German Empire, the Deutsche Koloniale Verein, and certain Afrikanders whose political ambitions have been thwarted.

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This should prove to the Boer in which direction his real friends are to be found, and if he learns the lesson properly he will in future distrust those men who have instilled the rebellious spirit into him and at the crucial moment have deserted him.

Precautions must be taken to ensure that there can be no repetition of this rebellious outbreak. To do this no effort should be spared to elevate the *bijwoner* and the small tenant-farmer above their present state. They lead very lonely lives. They have received little or no education. They are woefully ignorant of matters of the outside world, and because of these deficiencies they have become the prey of unprincipled adventurers. They

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must therefore be educated, and even if it is found necessary to spend half a million sterling per annum for thirty years on their education, it would be cheaper than spending half a million sterling per diem for thirty days in quelling a rebellion.

There should be instituted a Department of Rural Education, which should be governed conjointly by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education. At the present time the Agricultural Department is mostly concerned with the increase of agricultural produce, while the Educational Department centres its attention upon the education of the young. The development of the Boer population is lost sight of. We want on the

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Backveld a contented agricultural population which is self-reliant and more than self-sustaining. To increase the produce of the soil, small-holdings have been advocated, but small-holdings mean the establishment of a peasantry instead of a farming population. There are too many poor whites in the country at present, and the problem, which is of greater importance than the production of three muids of mealies where only one muid is now obtained, is the production of healthy, contented, and progressive families engaged in farming operations. To do this it is necessary for the whole family and not merely the children to be educated.

The *bijwoner* usually lives in most

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depressing surroundings. He starts his work at about 4 a.m. and ceases at about 7 p.m. For fifteen hours a day he is out on the veld, working with natives and oxen. His wages are a share of the crops. If the crops fail his labour goes for nothing. He has a wife and three or four children to clothe and keep, and to do that he has to contract debts. He lives in a hovel made of stone and dagga, where the sleeping apartment of himself and his family is partitioned by sheep-skins from the kitchen and "dining-room" combined. His meals are composed chiefly of "pap," Boer bread, and black coffee. Sometimes he has meat. His knowledge of passing events is obtained from the

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more or less erroneous gossip which permeates the Backveld. For years he struggles to better his condition, and struggles in vain. In disgust, he leaves the land for the nearest dorp and there attempts to find employment. Poorly educated and knowing no trade, he experiences great difficulty in making a living, and gradually sinks to the position of a handyman ready to tackle any kind of work, from repairing watches to erecting wind-pumps. His descent into hell is easier than even Dante could have imagined.

The poor tenant-farmer and the owner of a few acres are practically as badly situated as is the *bijwoner*. They are able to obtain more credit,

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it is true, but that is the very thing that causes their financial suicide. They can obtain from the storekeeper—usually an alien—credit for a year or eighteen months, on condition that they bring their wool and other produce to the man who so accommodates them. The result is that they are practically working for the storekeeper, who prefers to carry on a credit to a cash business. By giving these farmers, poor men for the most part, extended credit he is enabled to obtain their produce at his own price, and part of that price is in the shape of household requirements. In this way he makes a double profit. In any other business the producer fixes the price of the

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production. The South African farmer on a small scale must accept the price which the purchaser likes to give him.

These are some of the things which make the Boer discontented with his lot and make him ready to listen to any mealy-mouthed adventurer who propounds a scheme having for its object, presumably, the amelioration of the unsatisfactory condition of the average Backvelder.

Well-bred Afrikanders, descendants of the Huguenots, the best blood of France, may be seen "padding the hoof" along the main roads of the Union, with bundles on their shoulders, seeking for the means to obtain a livelihood. They may be found on the river diggings, starving, working

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from sun-up to sun-under, searching for the stones which will not appear. They may be found huddled in the slums of Vrededorp, keeping their bodies and souls together by the few shillings they can make from the illicit sale of drink to natives. Is it a matter of wonder that they succumb to the insidious artifices carefully prepared by political vampires?

A Department of Rural Education would take these people in hand, would educate them, and would hold out some hope to them of obtaining some degree of comfort in their lives. In each district there could be a meeting-house or some place of recreation. Reading-matter could be distributed, not only tedious articles

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upon scientific farming, but articles of general interest which would extend this people's knowledge of the peoples, customs, and histories of other lands. Illustrated lectures could be arranged, and bioscope films could be shown depicting manufacturing and agricultural industries and views of other lands. Instead of being regarded as so much dross and an encumbrance upon the country, these people must be looked upon as a precious asset. They are not mere barnacles on the ship of State, they are the ship itself. They are assets. Every white man in the country is an asset, and in years to come white men will be sadly needed. Why, then, allow the assets to decline?

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I have endeavoured to show how this rebellion was engineered, and I have also tried to attach the blame for it to the right persons. The case against them having been closed, and there being no defence forthcoming, judgment must be considered.

Mr. Beyers and Mr. de Wet at one period or another were members of the South African Council of Defence. While members of that Council they learnt not only the measures to be taken for the defence of South Africa, but they also knew the details of the scheme for the defence of the Empire. They were trusted with a secret of some importance, and they have betrayed that trust.

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Mr. Beyers, as a soldier, refused to carry out orders and refused to take the field against the Germans in German South-West Africa. This is a strange contrast to the action he took in January 1914, when he called out the Burgher Forces to quell the Johannesburg strikers. However, he has paid the penalty with his life—the loss of a brave man in a futile rebellion.

Mr. Beyers, as Commandant-General of the Defence Force, appointed a man—Maritz—to the command of the districts adjacent to the German territory. Mr. Maritz, who, about the middle of last August, told his friends he was going to oppose the proposed invasion of the German terri-

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tory, made a treaty with the enemy to oppose the loyal forces. When ordered to render an account of his actions he replied that he could only take orders from Hertzog, Beyers, de Wet, or Kemp. He ultimately joined the Germans in their own territory. Beyers and de Wet had taken the field at the head of rebel commandoes, despite their oath of allegiance to King Edward VII, his heirs and successors according to law. By their action in heading rebel commandoes they caused many men, who in the ordinary course of events would have been engaged in peaceful pursuits, to stand in armed resistance to the Crown. The rebel commandoes so induced to take the field

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have killed and wounded many Loyalists and have looted a considerable amount of property belonging to loyal members of the community. They have also destroyed a quantity of Government property and have stolen arms and ammunition belonging to the Government.

The fact that the disaffected forces are in a state of flagrant inferiority in comparison to those of the Government constitutes them rebels, and rebels, as outlaws, have no rights. They are not entitled even to treatment in accordance with the laws of war. A rebel is one who engages in armed resistance to the Government to which he owes allegiance, and by attacking the safety of the State the crime of treason has been committed.

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In South Africa the law of treason is derived through Holland from the Roman Law, and is based upon the *lex Julia majestatis* and the law of *perduellio*. Under that law *perduelles* were, strictly, public enemies who bore arms against the State, and traitors were regarded as having no more rights than public enemies. Of treasons other than military offences, some of the more noticeable were the raising of an army or levying war without the command of the governing body, the occupation of public places, and the meeting of persons hostile to the State with weapons.

Messrs. Beyers, de Wet, and Kemp have raised armed forces and have levied war without the command of

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the governing body. They have occupied public places, as at Heilbron, Vrede, and Harrismith, and they and their followers have constituted meetings of persons hostile to the State with weapons.

The South African law of treason includes disturbing the security or independence of the State with hostile intent. This is spoken of as high treason, as distinct from the *crimen læsæ majestatis*, in which the hostile intent need not be proved. It also includes insurrection and riot involving danger to public peace and order.

In English Law, treason includes, amongst other things, levying war against His Majesty either with intent to depose His Majesty from the

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Imperial Crown of the United Kingdom "or of any other of His Majesty's dominions or countries," and assisting a public enemy at war with His Majesty in such war by any means whatsoever.

Under the Roman Law even the death of the accused, if guilty of treason, did not extinguish the charge, but the memory of the deceased became infamous, and his property was forfeited as though he had been convicted in his lifetime.

By the Cape Law of 1853, passed during the Griqualand rebellion, it is made treason to deliver arms or ammunition to the King's enemies. Mr. Maritz handed several guns over to the Germans.

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At the commencement of the war the Imperial Government voted seven millions sterling for the Union Government to conduct the operations in German South-West Africa. The rebellion commenced on October 26th. It would be interesting to know what the cost entailed in quelling it has amounted to, and it would be also interesting to know what means are to be adopted in raising the money to pay for it. There will be, in addition to the actual cost of keeping an army in the field, a number of claims for compensation from persons whose belongings have been commandeered or looted. These will swell the bill to a pretty heavy sum of money, and it is to be hoped that the member

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of the Defence Force who has risked his life in helping to quell the rebellion will not, in addition to that, be called upon to contribute to the payment of the bill.

At the termination of the South African War, those rebels of the Cape Colony who had joined the Republican forces were disenfranchised for a period of years. Should the same procedure be adopted in this case? Should those members of Provincial Councils and other public men who have taken an active part in this rebellion be allowed to retain their positions?

These are questions which are being asked among the Loyalists, and they are deserving of much deliberation before an answer can be given. When

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deliberating, however, we must remember the words of General Botha, whose plea for forbearance must appeal to all.

“The Dutch Loyalists,” he said, “have discharged a painful duty out of a stern sense of honour, and, having relatives and friends often among the rebels, they regard the whole rebellion as a lamentable business, upon which the curtain should be rung down with as little declamation, as little controversy, and as little recrimination as possible. Be sure justice will be done.

“You will understand my feelings, and the feelings of the loyal commandoes, when among the rebel dead and wounded we found from time to time men who had fought in our ranks during the dark days of the late war.

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“ This is no time for exultation or recrimination. Let us spare one another's feelings. Remember we have to live together in this land long after the war is ended.”

It is the duty of all sections of the community to endeavour to ameliorate the disaffection, and the easiest way to do that is for each section to try more to understand the other sections. The trouble of the past has been caused through this lack of knowledge and understanding. The spirit of parochialism must be deleted, and in its place must grow a united South African spirit. The trouble of one State is the trouble of the Union, the prosperity of one is the prosperity of all.

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